

1.1.4 Project Objectives and Purpose and Need

This section presents the Lead Agencies' Project Objectives, which are required by the State CEQA Guidelines,¹ and the Purpose and Need Statement, which is required by the CEQ NEPA Regulations.²

1.1.1.1 Project Objectives

1.1.1.2 Purpose and Need

The purposes of the proposed actions are to achieve the following.

- a) Construction and operation of facilities and/or improvements for the movement of water entering the Delta from the Sacramento Valley watershed to the existing SWP and CVP pumping plants located in the southern Delta in a manner that minimizes or avoids adverse effects to listed species, and protects, restores and enhances aquatic, riparian and associated terrestrial natural communities and ecosystems.
- b) Operation of the existing and potential new SWP facilities and existing CVP Delta facilities in a manner that reduces adverse effects of diverting water on listed aquatic species.
- c) Restore and protect the ability of the SWP and CVP to deliver up to full contract amounts, when hydrologic conditions result in the availability of sufficient water, consistent with the requirements of state and federal law and the terms and conditions of water delivery contracts held by SWP contractors and certain members of San Luis Delta Mendota Water Authority, and other existing applicable agreements.

The above Purpose statement reflects the intent to advance the coequal goals set forth in the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009 of providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem. The above phrase—*restore and protect the ability of the SWP and CVP to deliver up to full contract amounts*—is related to the upper limit of legal CVP and SWP contractual water amounts and delineates an upper bound for development of EIR/EIS alternatives, not a target. It is not intended to imply that increased quantities of water will be delivered under the proposed project. As indicated by the “up to full contract amounts” phrase, alternatives need not be capable of delivering full contract amounts on average in order to meet the project purposes. Alternatives that depict design capacities or operational parameters that would result in deliveries of less than full contract amounts are consistent with this purpose.

¹ Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15124[b].

² 40 C.F.R. § 1502.13.